An amount of Rs. 268 lakhs and Rs. 884 lakhs has been released so far as Central assistance towards the growth centre at Alleppey-Pathanamthitta and Kannur-Kozhikode-Malappuram respectively.

(c) The growth centres are to be developed and established during the period of the VIII Five Year Plan.

Levy of Customs Duty

400. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Manipur have requested the Union Government to relieve Timber, Rice, Dal, Rajma and Spices of Myanmar origin from levy of customs duty,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon,

(c) whether the Government are aware that customs officials are levying heavy fines arbitrary on natural inflow of timber from Myanmar to Manipur, and

(d) if so the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure imposition of the fines in the spirit of the representation of the State Government on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (d) No Sir, no such request has been received from the Government of Manipur

As regards Timber, this item is not included in the Indo-Myanmar treaty Hence cases of its unauthorised import are to be adjudicated It has been reported that in such cases goods have been released on payment of duty, fine and penalty as provided for in the law

Restructuring of BIFR

401 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to restructure Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and to bring forward a bill on industrial sickness, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken being taken to revive the sick industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b). Yes However, no final decision has been taken

Smuggling of Gold

402. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noticed a spurt in the gold and narcotic drugs smuggling during the recent months; and

(b) if so, the contraband seized during each month since January, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) *Reports available with the Government do not indicate* that there is spurt in smuggling of narcotic drugs or gold. However, smuggling being a clandestine activity, the trends in smuggling cannot be stated with certainty.

(b) The quantity of Narcotics seized in the country each month since January, 1996 is as follows :

Quantity seized in Kgs.

Drug	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June (prov.)
Opium	37	630	153	228	13	3
Heroin	145	88	112	158	167	2
Ganja	2086	7287	4724	5159	91	-
Hashish	190	3622	731	17	19	-
Cocaine	-	-	-	0.097	0.135	-
Mandrax	-	4	0.750	-	-	-

The value of contraband including gold seized in the country (other than Narcotics) each month since January, 1996 is as follows :-

(Rs in lakhs)

Month	Value
January, 96	2414
February, 96	4524
March, 96	6910
April, 96	2441
May, 96	1960
June 96	1704 (Prov.)

Winding up of Public Sector Projects

403 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided either to wind up or sell major public sector projects which have failed to take off,